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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7737  
INFO RUEHXP/ALL NATO POST COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK PRIORITY 0311  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 5304

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 003487

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/23/2016  
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SUBJECT: FRANCE SYMPATHETIC TO DEMARCHE ON MANAS AIRFIELD

REF: STATE 081543

Classified By: Acting Political Counselor Bruce Turner, reason 1.4 b/d

11. (C) On May 22, we delivered reftel demarche to Xavier Chatel, MFA official working on NATO, noting that U.S. negotiations with the Kyrgyzs were ongoing. Chatel observed that our request that France make a demarche to Kyrgyzstan likely would be considered favorably by the GoF and promised to get back to us with a more definitive answer soonest. He noted that France and others had used Manas from time to time, hence it was important that OEF and ISAF partners stayed engaged on keeping the airfield accessible.

12. (C) In terms of substance, Chatel said that France had heard rumors that Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) members might pressure the Kyrgyzs to end the use of Manas airfield by the international community. Additionally, recent comments by Kyrgyzs President Bakiyev, as well as the outcome of the last SCO summit, had not been encouraging.

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